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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 2, 2002**

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### **CON MAN PLEADS GUILTY**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on July 2, 2002, John Stuart Crompton, Jr., 47 years old, of Phoenix, Arizona, pled guilty to Passing a Fictitious Obligation of the United States, in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona.

Crompton had been charged with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 514. During his guilty plea proceeding, Crompton advised United States District Court Judge Susan R. Bolton that he had manufactured a document entitled, Trade Acceptance/Bill of Exchange/Noncash Item, which looked like a check in the amount of \$51,045.31 drawn on his fictitious Treasury Direct Account at the non-existent Department of the Treasury Bank in an attempt to obtain a new Lexus automobile. In an accompanying document which he also authored, Crompton stated to the dealership representatives that the fictitious check was an obligation of the United States, and cited alleged authority from the United States Supreme Court and a Congressional enactment dating from 1933. Crompton acknowledged that he knew he did not have such an account nor had ever been to such a bank. Other documents on file with the court revealed that when the personnel from the dealership inquired as to authenticity of the document from its local banks, they learned that the check was fictitious.

Crompton was found competent to stand trial on June 18, 2002 after a court ordered examination into his mental status. In testimony in that hearing, Crompton apologized to the court for his former

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conduct. Previously, Crompton had been held in contempt by a United States Magistrate Judge for disobeying a court order to remain in the courtroom during a court proceeding. He had also filed liens with the Maricopa County Recorder, now vacated, allegedly from a fictitiously created court against all the government personnel and witnesses, including judges, involved with his case. Crompton claimed at the hearing that he had erroneously placed his belief in the Redemption Theory, a pseudo-legal concept that holds, by quoting legal authorities out of context, that the United States is responsible for paying all public and private debts.

A conviction for 18 U.S.C. 514, Passing Fictitious Obligations carries a maximum penalty of 25 years imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge Bolton on September 23, 2002.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Secret Service.

The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-959-PHX-SRB  
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